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A VIDEO STARRING PATTY DUKE

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Welcome to the Social Security Retirement Benefit Application

Form Approved: OMB No. 0960-0618

Expires 08/31/2011

Thank you for using our online Retirement application.

Before you begin...

Before you start applying for benefits, you should read <u>Using this</u> <u>application</u> in order to understand the information and documents that may be needed.

You may also want to review:

- When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits
- Special Instructions For Blind Users
- Other Ways To Apply
- Medicare For people Within 3 Months of Age 65 or Older
- Help With Medicare Prescription Drug Costs
- Internet Security Policy
- Website Policies & Other Important Information
- Social Security Accessibility Policy

We estimate that it will take between 10 and 30 minutes to read the instructions, gather the facts, and answer the questions, but this will depend on the number of questions you need to answer. The average time is approximately 15 minutes. For more information about estimates, go to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Before you start your application, we recommend that you get an estimate of your retirement benefit. It will help you to answer some of the questions on the application. You may want to print or save the estimate to refer to during your application.

Estimate my Benefit

If you want to finish an application that you already started:

Continue Application

To Start The Application Process...

Please select one of the following. Tell us information about the person completing this application.

I am applying for myself.

I am helping someone who wants to apply for benefits and is with me.

I am helping someone who is not with me, and therefore can not sign the application at this time.

Privacy Act Statement

I have read the Privacy Act Statement

Apply For Benefits



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Applying for Retirement Benefits Online

Updated: December 16, 2008 12:13 PM

Preparing to Apply for Retirement Benefits

If you have never read any information about Social Security or talked to one of our representatives, you may need some background information about the benefits themselves before going ahead with the application. We want to be sure you are able to answer all of the questions.

If you are filing for **retirement benefits**, there are certain Social Security "basics" you should know. The most important one is knowing your "full retirement age."

Depending on your date of birth, it may be between age 65 and 67. This could affect the amount of your benefits and when you want the benefits to start.

You may start receiving benefits as early as age 62. Since you will be expected to receive them longer, these benefits will be permanently <u>reduced by a small percentage</u>.

If you elect to receive benefits before you reach full retirement age, you should understand how <u>continuing to work</u> can affect your benefits.

You should also be aware that <u>credits may be added to your benefits if you take them after your full retirement age.</u>

Please read Other Things to Consider for information about other things you should think about when you make your decision about when to begin your benefits. **Some of the things you should think about before you decide** include how long you think you will receive benefits, your health and whether anyone else in your family can get benefits on your record.

Steps in Applying for Benefits

Here is what you need to do to apply for benefits online.

- 1. Fill out the online application.
 - After you fill out the application, you will be asked to confirm the truthfulness of your answers under penalty of perjury and your response will be recorded. You can be held liable by law for providing false or misleading information.
- "Sign" the application electronically by clicking on the "Sign Now" button that
 will appear on the screen after you have finished filling out the
 application. Note: The only person who can "sign" the application is the person
 who is applying for benefits. A legal representative or person helping cannot
 sign the application.
- 3. Submit any documents we may need to a Social Security office.

If you can't complete your online application for any reason, you will be able to start it again without losing the information you entered. We will explain how to do this later on.

Full Retirement Age is increasing from 65 to 66...67

Full retirement age is increasing but you can still collect reduced benefits as early as age 62.



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Application Number Section (Page 1 of 1) Application Number for John Public

You have successfully started your Retirement application. We are providing you with an Application Number. The number can be used to restart an incomplete application.

Your Application Number: 34855679

Please print this page (with your browser's printer) or write down your Application Number. You may need it to complete your online application or to check the status of your claim.

If you are unable to complete your online application for any reason, use the "Sign Off (finish this later)" option at the bottom left corner of each page. We will save all the information you provided prior to the page where you use the "Sign Off (finish this later)" option.

After waiting at least five minutes, you will be able to continue this application again by selecting "Continue Application" from the Welcome to the Social Security Retirement Benefit Application page. You will need to enter your Social Security number and this Application Number to continue your application.

If you lose this number and have not completed the application, you can start a new application and we will give you a new Application Number. The old number will be disabled. Social Security employees will not ask for, or be able to access your Application Number.

We may use 12/03/2008 as the official date of this application. In order to use 12/03/2008, we must receive the signed application by 06/03/2009. You may lose Social Security benefits if we do not receive the signed application by 06/03/2009.

Supplemental Security Income or SSI is a federal program that provides monthly payments to people who have limited income and assets and who are age 65 or older, or blind or have a disability. For more information about the SSI program, please read the pamphlet, Supplemental Security Income.

If you intend to file an SSI application you need to file your application with us by 02/01/2009 or you may lose SSI benefits. Call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to arrange an appointment to file for SSI. You cannot apply for SSI over the Internet.

If you need assistance, please call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) for more information.

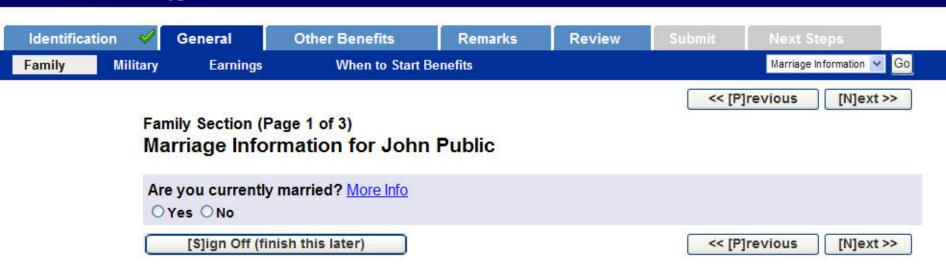
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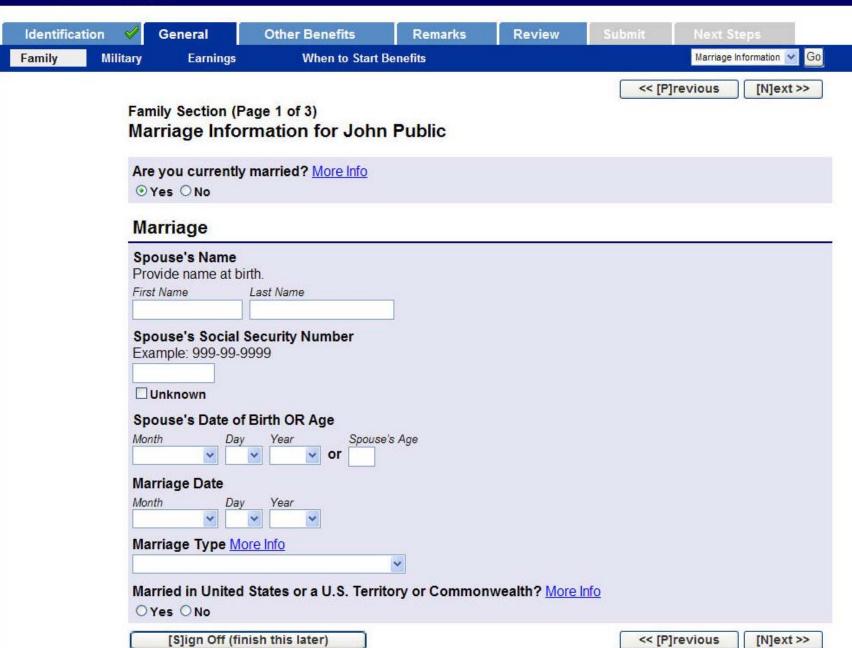


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When to Start Benefits Section (Page 1 of 2) When to Start Benefits for John Public

It's your choice when to start benefits. The earlier the date you start your benefits, the smaller your benefit. The later the date you start to receive benefits, the larger your benefit. This is an important decision, with several factors to consider before you choose the month your benefits should start. More Info

We have an estimator that can show you what your benefit amount will be under various scenarios. You may wish to end this session and go there now. You will be able to return and continue where you left off. The information you have already entered will be saved.

Go to Estimator

We need to know when you want to start benefits.

You are beyond your full retirement age of 65 years and 6 months old, which was 05/2006.

Do you want benefits to start on 12/2008? ○ Yes ○ No, I'd like to choose another date.		
If you are eligible for both retirement benefits and spous retirement benefit? More Info Yes No	se's benefit, do you want to delay rec	eipt of
[S]ign Off (finish this later)	<< [P]revious	[N]ext >>



www.socialsecurity.gov



Send this application Section (Page 1 of 1) Send this application for John Public

To return to the Overall Summary, please use the "Return to Summary" button.

Congratulations, you're just about ready to complete your application for retirement benefits.

Please read and accept the following statement to finish the application. If you are helping someone to complete the application, then that person needs to read and accept the statement.

I understand and agree that my application will be signed electronically by selecting "Sign Now" below. I also understand that my electronic signature means that I intend to file for benefits and have provided the Social Security Administration with accurate information. I declare under penalty of perjury that I have examined all the information on this application and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that anyone who knowingly gives a false or misleading statement about a material fact in this electronic application, or causes someone else to do so. commits a crime and may be sent to prison or may face other penalties, or both.

When you select "Sign Now", you will be sending your completed information electronically to the Social Security Administration. You will no longer be able to change your information.

[S]ign Off (finish this later) << [P]revious Sign Now



When we have all of the necessary information and documents, we'll process your application and send you a letter in the mail.



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The Full Retirement Age is Increasing

(En Español)

The earliest a person can start receiving Social Security retirement benefits will remain at age 62.

Full retirement age (also called "normal retirement age") had been 65 for many years. However, beginning with people born in 1938 or later, that age gradually increases until it reaches 67 for people born after 1959.



The <u>1983 Social Security Amendments</u> included a provision for **raising the full retirement age beginning with people born in 1938 or later**. The Congress cited improvements in the health of older people and increases in average life expectancy as primary reasons for increasing the normal retirement age.

Note: If you were born on January 1st of any year you should refer to the previous year.

If you were born in:

1937 or earlier 💌

Your full retirement age is:

Click here!

Or read our chart that shows the steps in which the full retirement age is increasing.

USA.gov

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Frequently Asked Questions

A secure, comfortable retirement is every worker's dream. And now because we're living longer, healthier lives, we can expect to spend more time in retirement than our parents and grandparents did. Achieving the dream of a secure, comfortable retirement is much easier when you plan your finances.

How the Social Security Retirement Planner can help you now

This planner provides detailed information about your Social Security retirement benefits **under current law** and points out things you may want to consider as you prepare for the future. If you are:

- Looking for information, you can:
 - Find your retirement age,
 - Use our <u>Retirement Estimator</u> and our other <u>benefit calculators</u> to test different retirement ages or future earnings amounts,
 - Learn about Social Security programs,
 - o Find out what happens if you work after you retire, and
 - Learn how certain types of earnings and pensions can affect your benefits.
- · Already near retirement age, you can:
 - Discover your retirement options,
 - Get information about <u>how members of your family may qualify for benefits</u>,
 - Find instructions on <u>how to apply for benefits</u> and what <u>supporting</u> documents you'll need to furnish, and
 - Apply for retirement benefits.

Reminder: You need to **sign up for <u>Medicare</u>** close to your 65th birthday, even if you will not be retired by that time. (If you are getting Social Security benefits when you turn 65, your Medicare Hospital Benefits start automatically.)

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Depending on what you own and how much income you have, you may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) when you are 65 or older. You also may be eligible for SSI prior to age 65 if you are disabled or blind.



You can view a Demo of our Retirement Benefit Application (January, 2009).



mymoney.gov (This Federal Government website is designed to help you understand more about your money.)

Social Security Online

Request a Social Security Statement

www.socialsecurity.gov



Information about Requesting a Social Security Statement

This service is available (Eastern Time):

Monday through Friday - All Day (except 2:00 AM - 3:00 AM) Saturday 5:00 AM - 11:00 PM Sunday 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM Holidays 5:00 AM - 11:00 PM

The Social Security Statement is a valuable document that estimates your future Social Security benefits and tells you how to qualify for those benefits.

This service allows you to transmit your request for a Social Security Statement using an online form. However, we do not send your Statement information back on the Internet. Instead, you will receive a response to your request by U.S. mail in 2-4 weeks.

Your Social Security Statement will include:

- A record of your earnings history and an estimate of how much you and your employer paid in Social Security taxes; and
- Estimates of benefits you (and your family) may be eligible for now and in the future.

To request your Social Security Statement, you will need:

- Your name as shown on your Social Security Card
- Your Social Security Number
- · Your date of birth
- Your place of birth
- Your mother's maiden name last name only (to help identify you)

When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits



A t Social Security, we're often asked, "What is the best age to start receiving retirement benefits?" The answer is that there is no one "best age" for everyone and, ultimately, it is your choice. You should make an informed decision about when to apply for benefits based on your individual and family circumstances. We hope the following information will help you understand how Social Security can fit into your retirement decision.

Your decision is a personal one

Would it be better for you to begin receiving benefits early with a smaller monthly amount or wait for a larger monthly payment later that you may not receive as long? The answer is highly personal and depends on a number of factors, such as your current cash needs, your health and family longevity, whether you plan to work in retirement, whether you have other retirement income sources, your anticipated future financial needs and obligations, and, of course, the amount of your future Social Security benefit. We hope you will weigh all the facts carefully and consider your own circumstances before making the important decision about when to begin receiving Social Security benefits.

Monthly payments differ substantially based on when you start receiving benefits

If you live to the average life expectancy for someone your age, you will receive about the same amount in lifetime benefits no matter whether you choose to start receiving benefits at age 62, full retirement age, age 70 or any age in between. However, monthly benefit amounts can differ substantially based on your retirement age. Basically, you can get lower monthly payments for a longer period of time or higher monthly payments over a shorter period of time. The amount you receive when you first get benefits sets the base for the amount you will receive for the rest of your life, though you do receive annual cost-of-living adjustments and, depending on

your work history, may receive higher benefits if you continue to work.

The following chart provides an example of how your monthly benefit amount can differ based on the age at which you decide to start receiving benefits.



Let's say your full retirement age is 66 and your monthly benefit starting at that age is \$1,000. If you choose to start getting benefits at age 62, your monthly benefit will be reduced by 25 percent to \$750 to account for the longer period of time you receive benefits. This is generally a permanent reduction in your monthly benefit.

If you choose to not receive benefits until age 70, you would increase your monthly benefit amount to \$1,320. This increase is from delayed retirement credits you get for your decision to postpone receiving benefits past your full retirement age. The benefit amount at age 70 in this example is 32 percent more than you would receive per month if you chose to start getting benefits at full retirement age.

Retirement may be longer than you think

When thinking about retirement, be sure to plan for the long term. Many of us will live much longer than the "average" retiree, and, generally, women tend to live longer than men. About one out of every four 65-year-olds

over

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The Retirement Estimator produces estimates that are based on your actual Social

· Your Social Security earnings record is constantly being updated;

slightly from the actual benefit you may receive in the future because:

 Our calculators use different parameters and assumptions (e.g., different stop work ages, future earnings projections, etc.); and

Security earnings record. Retirement estimates are just that, estimates. They will vary

Your actual future benefit will be adjusted for inflation.

Caution: You cannot use the Estimator if you block access to your personal information.

Estimate

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How the Retirement Estimator

Works

You can use the Retirement Estimator if:

- You have enough <u>Social Security credits</u> at this time to qualify for benefits and
 You are not:
- You are not
 - Currently receiving benefits on your own Social Security record;
 - A Medicare beneficiary;
 - Age 62 or older and receiving benefits on another Social Security record;
 or
 - Eligible for a <u>Pension Based on Work Not Covered By Social Security</u>.

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For security reasons, there are time limits for viewing each page. You will receive a warning after 25 minutes without doing anything, and you will be able to extend your time on the page. After the third warning on a page, you must move to another page or your time will run out and your work on that page will be lost.

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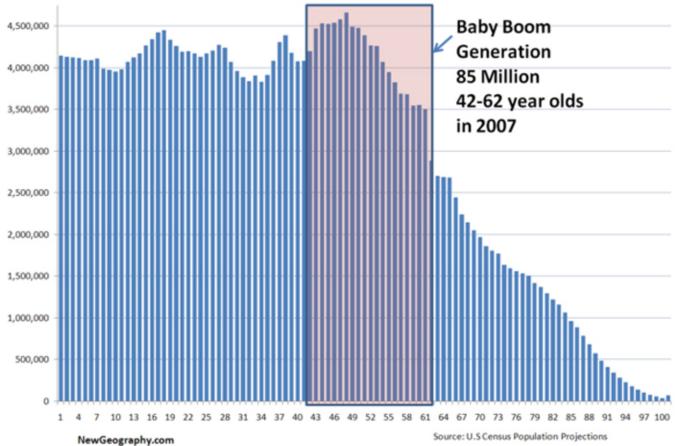
Apply for Benefits Online Retirement Planner Disability Planner Survivors Planner Retirement Estimator Benefit Calculators Frequently Asked Questions Your benefit amount can be affected by a number of different factors. If you already have a benefit estimate, you can use the charts and calculators listed on this page to find out how different retirement dates and situations affect your Social Security benefits. If you:

- are currently working and are eligible for retirement or survivors benefits this year, you can learn how your earnings may affect your benefit payments with our Earnings Limit Calculator.
- start benefits early, the amount may be reduced based on how long you will receive benefits before your full retirement age. If you want to find out how much retiring early reduces your monthly benefit as a wage earner or spouse, use our Retirement Age Calculator.
- will start receiving benefits after your full retirement age, your benefit may be higher due to delayed retirement credits.
- are trying to decide whether to retire early and take a reduced benefit, wait until full retirement age or delay benefits until age 70 we can help you decide if the higher benefit is worth the wait.
- . know the amount of your full retirement benefit, you can
 - o compute the effect of early or delayed retirement on your benefit amount and
 - include Medicare Part B Premiums in your calculations.
- will receive a pension from a federal, state or local government job in which you did not pay Social Security taxes, it may reduce the amount of your Social Security benefit. Find out what having a government pension will do to your Social Security benefit if it is based on:
 - Your work.
 - o Your spouse's work.

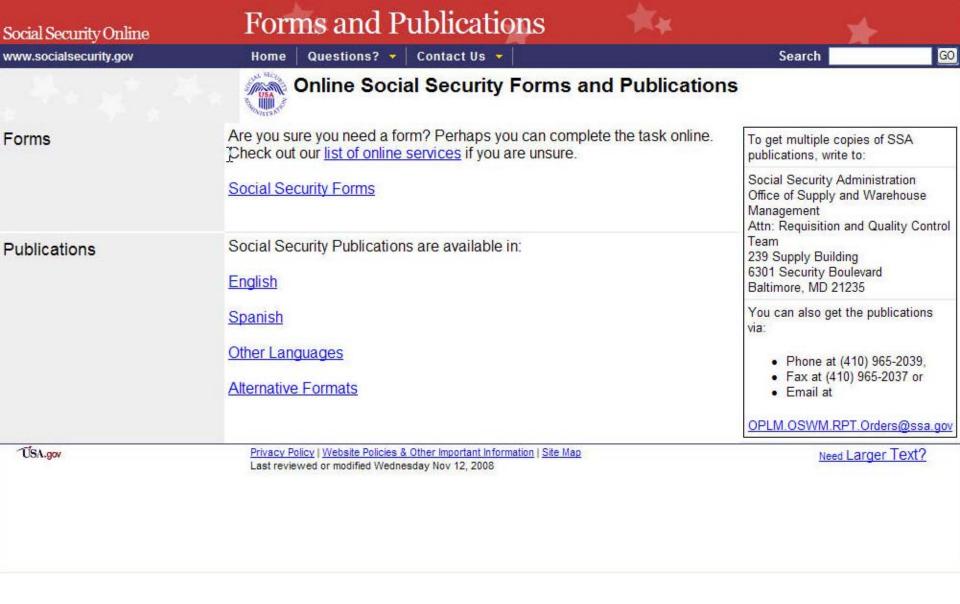


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How we calculate benefits					age may result in larger nefit by retiring at age 70		d retirement
Early retirement reduces benefits	retireme		3 months. If		d 5/9 of one percent for enonths exceeds 36, then		
	retireme	ent age is 67), th	nen the ben	efit is reduced b	60 (the maximum numbe y 30 percent. This maxin es 5/12 of 1 percent.		
Delayed retirement increases benefits					irement after the normal ent age. No credit is give		ceive full
	Januar				ed retirement credits v below gives you the amo		
		d retirement cre y year of birth.	dits increas	e a retiree's ber	nefits. The table below sh	nows the delayed retir	ement
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